

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria
SUBJECT Yambol Airfield

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REQUIREMENT NO.

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REFERENCES

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PLACE ACQUIRED

1. This airfield is located 9½ kilometers northwest of Yambol on the eastern side of the road which runs from Yambol to Sliven and south of the Tundzha River.
2. The northeast corner of the airfield lies 500 meters south of the large bend of the Tundzha River to the south, and the northwest corner of the airfield is located one kilometer from the highway bridge over the Tundzha River to the south and an additional one kilometer east. The southwest corner of the airfield lies 1½ kilometers north of the area of Borizovo (N 42-33, E 26-27).
3. The airfield is rectangular in shape, and west-east in direction. It is 2500 x 1500 meters in size. The airfield was used by the Bulgarian Army during World War II. The actual construction of this airfield occurred in 1951, and it was completed in 1953. Reports from people who took part in the construction of the airfield indicate that the construction resulted from the wish of the Soviets.
4. The earth is a dry meadow. A chestnut forest is located to the north of the airfield. The earth on the north side was made solid by laying stones and later by industrious rolling. A grass plot is laid out. The airfield slopes to the south, and there are open ditches which drain into the Yome Dere Brook in case of surface water.
5. A concrete runway extends from the west to the east side. It is 50 meters wide in the center, and 2500 meters long. Along the north and south side there is a rolled runway in a longitudinal direction. There are taxi-strips for a third of the length of the airfield connecting the edges of the airfield to the take-off runway located in the center. The runways are 30 meters in width.
6. Unidentified buildings are located on the north side of the airfield. The majority of these buildings lie in the chestnut forest along the river bank. Four hangars are located 900 meters east of the northwest edge of the field about 50 meters apart (see figures 4,5,6,7). Each hangar, of concrete construction with corrugated

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-2-

steel doors on moveable hinges, is 70 x 30 meters in size. Between hangars 5 and 6, there is a control tower 25 meters high. It is of iron concrete construction, brick walls, and two story windows at the top (see figure 8).

7. The barracks compound (see figure 10) is 300 x 500 meters in size, and lies in the chestnut forest camouflaged by trees. It is 350 meters north of the north side, south of the Tundzha River. The barracks compound consists of eight 1-story buildings, three 3-story buildings, three garages and storage rows.
8. There is a control tower with an ultrashortwave radio transmitter. On top of the control tower there is an antenna rod eight meters high. No radar installation or mobile radar stations were observed.
9. A meteorological station is located in a 1-story concrete house 350 meters to the east of the airfield (see figure 13).
10. The central gasoline depot is located 200 meters north and 700 meters west of the northeast corner of the airfield. There are two pumping units, one for gasoline and the other for jet fuel. Two gasoline tanks are located between hangars 4 and 5 and hangars 6 and 7 (see figure 9). Quantities of gasoline are brought from the central gasoline dump in small tanks and put into the aircraft.
11. Four small munitions dumps are located at the northeast corner of the barracks compound. No additional details are known. It is reported that munitions are stored in the large underground munitions dump at Sliven, completed in 1953.
12. Overhead power lines come from the electrical works at Sliven. There are lines along the road to Lugo (sic, possibly Lulitsa N 42-36, E 26-29), and a cable branches off at Krushare (N 42-34, E 26-22) to the airfield.
13. There are no industrial railroad tracks. A road connection branches off 200 meters south of the Tundzha River, to the east. A road runs into the chestnut forest to the barracks. One arm of the road runs to the airfield, and the other to the central fuel depot.
14. The wind direction is generally from northeast-southwest.
15. Antiaircraft batteries (see figure 11) are located as follows:
 - a. 100 meters west of the northwest corner;
 - b. 300 meters south of the center of the south edge; and
 - c. 300 meters southeast of the northeast corner.
16. Aircraft hardstands are located as follows:
 - a. 20 hardstands at the south edge of the airfield; and
 - b. 30 hardstands north of the hangars next to the chestnut forest.
17. The airfield is not enclosed. West of the southwest corner of the airfield, a barbed wire fence runs a distance of 300 meters to the road.
18. The following units are based at the airfield:
 - a. One Bulgarian pursuit plane regiment, Podelenie 4762;
 - b. One Bulgarian airplane squadron, Podelenie 4480; and
 - c. One pursuit plane training cadre.

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-2-

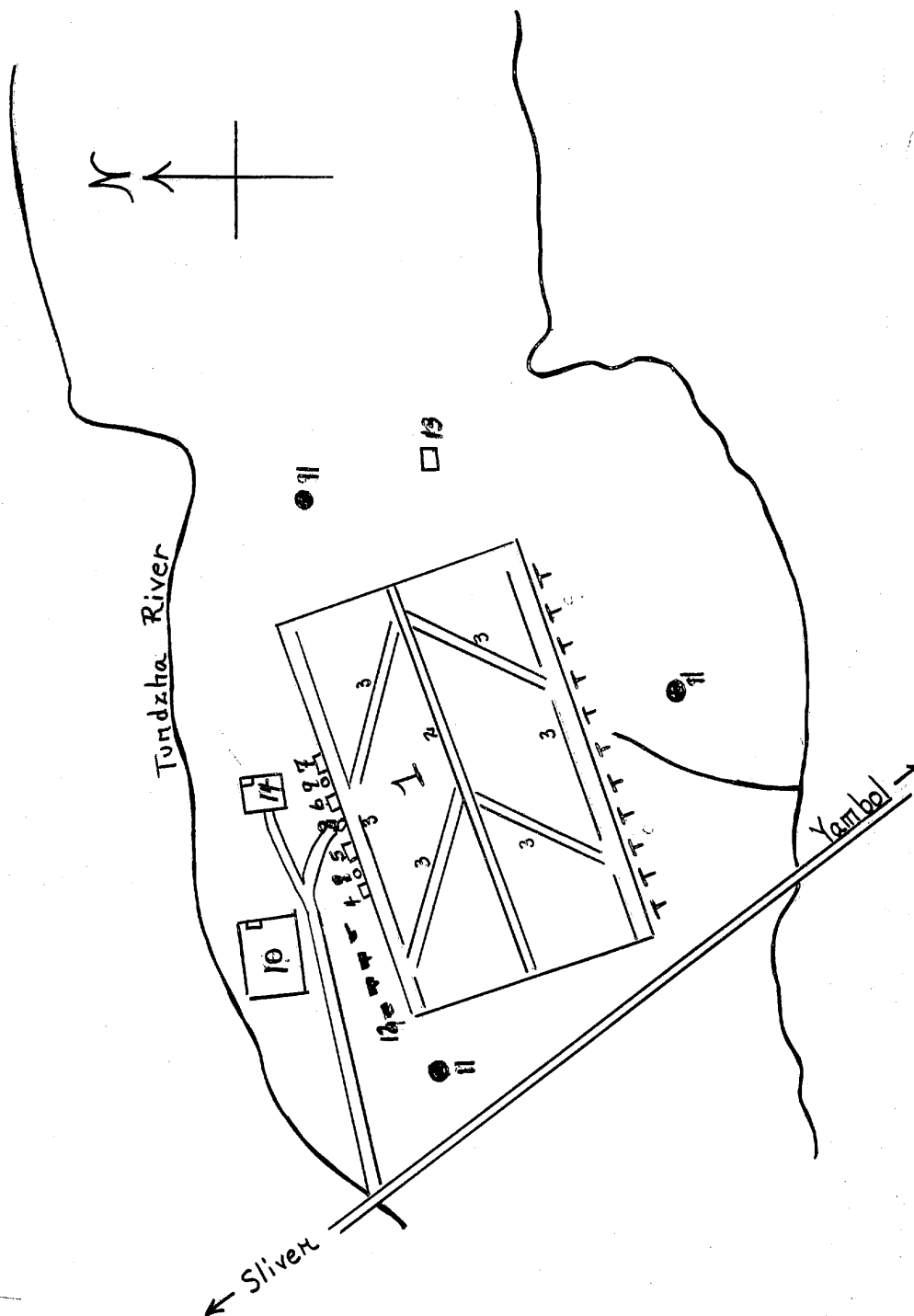
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 - a. One Bulgarian pursuit plane regiment [redacted] 25X1
 - b. One Bulgarian airplane squadron [redacted] and 25X1
 - c. One pursuit plane training cadre.

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-4-



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